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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,
SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC,
VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

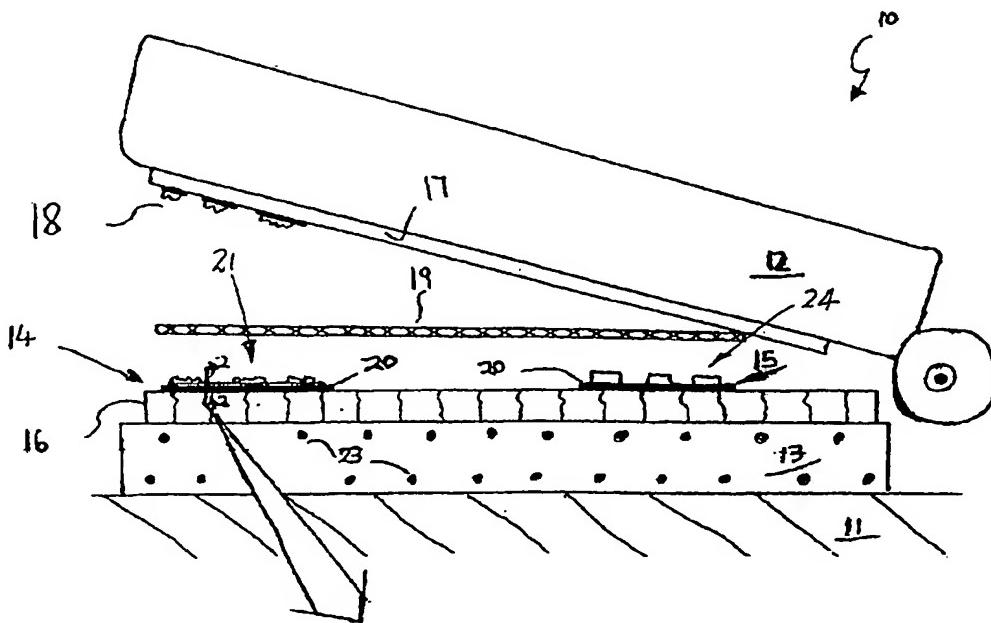
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM,
KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,
ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A DIE PLATE FOR A FOIL STAMPING MACHINE



(57) Abstract: A die plate (14) to be used in a foil stamping machine (10). The die plate (14) includes a plate steel back (20) to which there is secured an image layer (21). The image layer (21) is secured to the plate steel back (20) by means of a compressible adhesive (22). Preferably, the adhesive (22) is an acrylic polymer. The image layer (21) is formed of metal such as brass, steel, copper, zinc, aluminium, magnesium, or photo-polymer.

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A DIE PLATE FOR A FOIL STAMPING MACHINE

Technical Field

The present invention relates to the field of graphic arts and more particularly to die plates employed in stamping machines such as foil stamping machines.

5

Background of the Invention

Described in International Patent Publication No. WO 00/67953 and USA Patent 5,904,096 are methods and apparatus relating to foil stamping.

The above-discussed publications disclose a magnetic holding device to secure a steel-backed polymer die plate to a foil stamping heating element.

10

Conventionally, the die plates are rigid, except for silicon rubber dies. Typically, the image layer is provided by magnesium, brass, copper, steel, zinc or a photo-polymer. However, there is required within the process some compressibility to ensure a quality image is applied to the substrate. Conventionally, the compression takes place in the packing, that is, the material behind the substrate.

15

It is also the practice in foil stamping to correct low points in the die plate by inserting material behind the packing. Typically, this material is paper or plastics and is fastened in position by means of glue or tape. When the die plate is to be replaced or re-positioned the clean-up will generally require the use of a flammable solvent. Accordingly, the conventional mounting of die plates is time-consuming and requires the undesirable use of flammable solvents.

20

Object of the Invention

It is the object of the present invention to overcome or substantially ameliorate the above disadvantage.

Summary of the Invention

25

There is disclosed herein a die plate for a stamping machine, the die plate including:

30

a plate steel back to be secured to the machine;

a metal impression layer secured to the steel back and to engage a substrate to impart an image thereto upon pressure being applied to the die plate and substrate by the machine; and

a compressible adhesive securing the image layer to the steel back.

Preferably, the compressible adhesive is an acrylic polymer.

Preferably, the impression layer is formed of brass, steel, copper, zinc, magnesium, aluminium or photo-polymer.

Preferably, said die plate has iron embedded in the adhesive.

Preferably, the adhesive is an epoxy resin.

In one preferred form, the iron embedded in said adhesive is in a particle form.

5 In a further preferred form, the iron embedded in said adhesive is in the form of a mesh.

In a further preferred form, the iron embedded in said adhesive is in the form of a perforated plate. Preferably, the plate is 0.25 mm to 1 mm in thickness. Preferably, the thickness is about 0.25 mm or 0.6 mm.

Brief Description of the Drawings

10 A preferred form of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic side elevation of a foil stamping machine within which there is located a die plate to apply an image to a substrate;

15 Figure 2 is a schematic sectioned side elevation of the die plate employed in the machine of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a schematic side elevation of the foil stamping machine of Figure 1 with a modified die plate; and

Figure 4 is a schematic side elevation of the foil stamping machine of Figure 1 with a further modified die plate.

20 Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

In Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings there is schematically depicted a foil stamping machine 10. The machine 10 includes a base 11 upon which there is pivotally mounted a platen 12. Secured to the base 11 is a bed 13 which is electrically heated by means of heating elements 23. Secured to the bed 13 is a magnetic holding device 16. Typically, the device 16 would be the magnetic holding device described in either of the above-mentioned patent publications.

Secured to the device 16 by magnetic attraction are die plates 14 and 15. To cooperate with the die plates 14 and 15 is a jacket member (packing) 17, which is secured to the platen 12, having image portions 18. Preferably, the member 17 is a non-magnetic stainless steel or other non-magnetic metal. The image portions 18 are typically formed of fibreglass. If a foil image is to be applied to a substrate 19, a foil layer (27, Figures 3 and 4) is located between the substrate 19 and the die plate 14. The platen 12 applies pressure to the substrate 19 and the foil layer, so that the image is applied to the

substrate 19. In addition, the bed 13 heats the die plate 14 to aid in transfer of the foil to the substrate 19.

Each of the die plates 14 and 15 includes a plate steel back 20 to which there are secured image layers 21 and 24 respectively. The layer 21 is secured to the back 20 by means of a compressible adhesive 22. Preferably, the adhesive 22 is an acrylic polymer.

The image layer 21 is formed of metal, such as brass, steel, copper, zinc, aluminium, photo-polymer or magnesium, while the layer 24 is formed of a photo-polymer. The above-described preferred embodiments provide the advantage of eliminating the use of having to insert material to "make up" low spots. Accordingly, the above-described preferred embodiment is time-efficient and eliminates the use of flammable solvents.

The above-described preferred embodiment also offers the advantage of substantially ameliorating the crushing and distortion of the substrate, which is of particular interest in security and anti-counterfeiting applications.

Preferably, in the case of the die plate 14, the plate steel back 20 would have a thickness of about 0.25 mm and the image layer of a thickness of about 1.50 mm. In respect of the die plate 15, preferably the plate steel back 20 would have a thickness of about 0.6 mm and the image layer (photo-polymer) a thickness of about 1.15 mm.

Accordingly, the die plates 14 and 15 would each have a total thickness of about 1.75 mm.

The above-described preferred embodiment lends itself to the processes of flat-foil stamping, embossing, de-bossing, die-cutting, perforating, top-slitting and a combination of foil stamp embossing and de-bossing.

In Figures 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings, a modified die plate 14 is being used with the machine 10. More particularly, the adhesive layer 22 has embedded in it iron in various forms. The iron has been provided to aid in maintaining the die plates 14 and 15 generally planar. That is, to inhibit distortion due to different heat expansion rates.

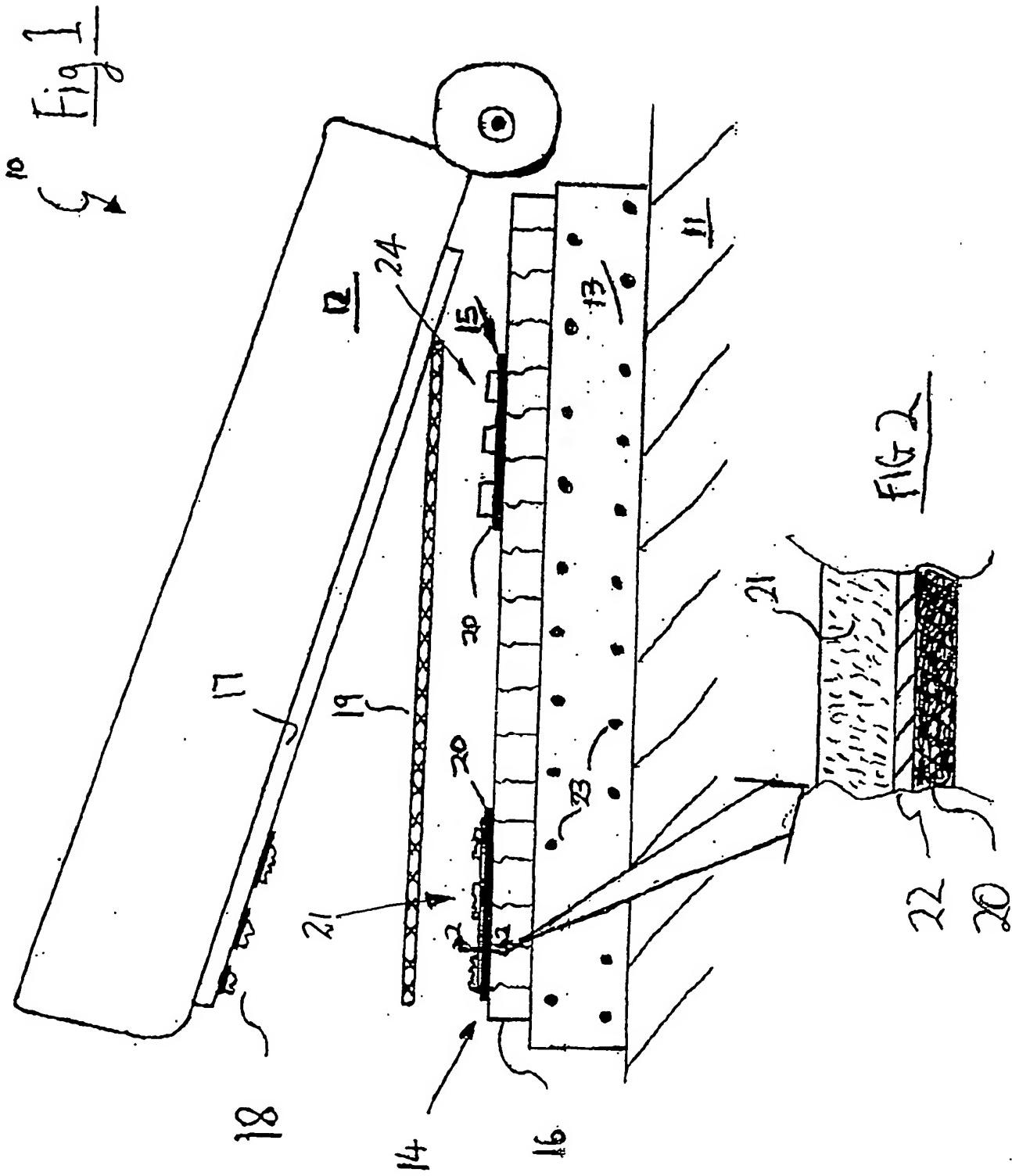
In the embodiment of Figure 3, the iron is in the form of iron particles 25. More preferably, the adhesive 22 within which the iron particles 25 are embedded has a thickness of about 0.25 mm to 1 mm, preferably about 0.25 mm or about 0.6 mm.

In the embodiment of Figure 4, the adhesive 22 has embedded in it iron in sheet form. For example the sheet form could be woven or non woven mesh or alternatively, perforated iron plate 26. In respect of the plate 26, it would have a thickness of 0.25 mm to 1 mm (preferably about 0.25 mm or about 0.6 mm), with the adhesive 22 extending through the perforations in the plate 26.

In the embodiment of Figures 3 and 4 preferably, the adhesive 22 is an epoxy resin. In that respect, it should be appreciated that the epoxy resin is slightly less compressible than the acrylic polymer used with the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2. An alternative adhesive is a phenolic based resin.

CLAIMS:

1. A die plate for a stamping machine, the die plate including:
a plate steel back to be secured to the machine;
a metal impression layer secured to the steel back and to engage a substrate to
5 impart an image thereto upon pressure being applied to the die plate and substrate by the
machine; and
a compressible adhesive securing the image layer to the steel back.
2. The die plate of claim 1 wherein the compressible adhesive is an acrylic
polymer.
- 10 3. The die plate of claim 1 wherein the adhesive is an epoxy resin.
4. The die plate of claim 1 wherein its compressible adhesive is a phenolic
based resin.
5. The die plate of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the impression layer is
formed of brass, steel, copper, zinc, magnesium, aluminium or photo-polymer.
- 15 6. The die plate of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said die plate has iron
embedded in the adhesive.
7. The die plate of claim 6 wherein the iron embedded in said adhesive is
in a particle form.
8. The die plate of claim 6 wherein the iron embedded in said adhesive is
20 in the form of a mesh.
9. The die plate of claim 6 wherein the iron embedded in said adhesive is
in the form of a perforated plate.
10. The die plate of any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the plate has thickness
of about 0.25 mm to about 1 mm.
- 25 11. The die plate of claim 10 wherein the die plate has a thickness of about
0.25 mm.
12. The die plate of claim 10 wherein the die plate has a thickness of about
0.6 mm.



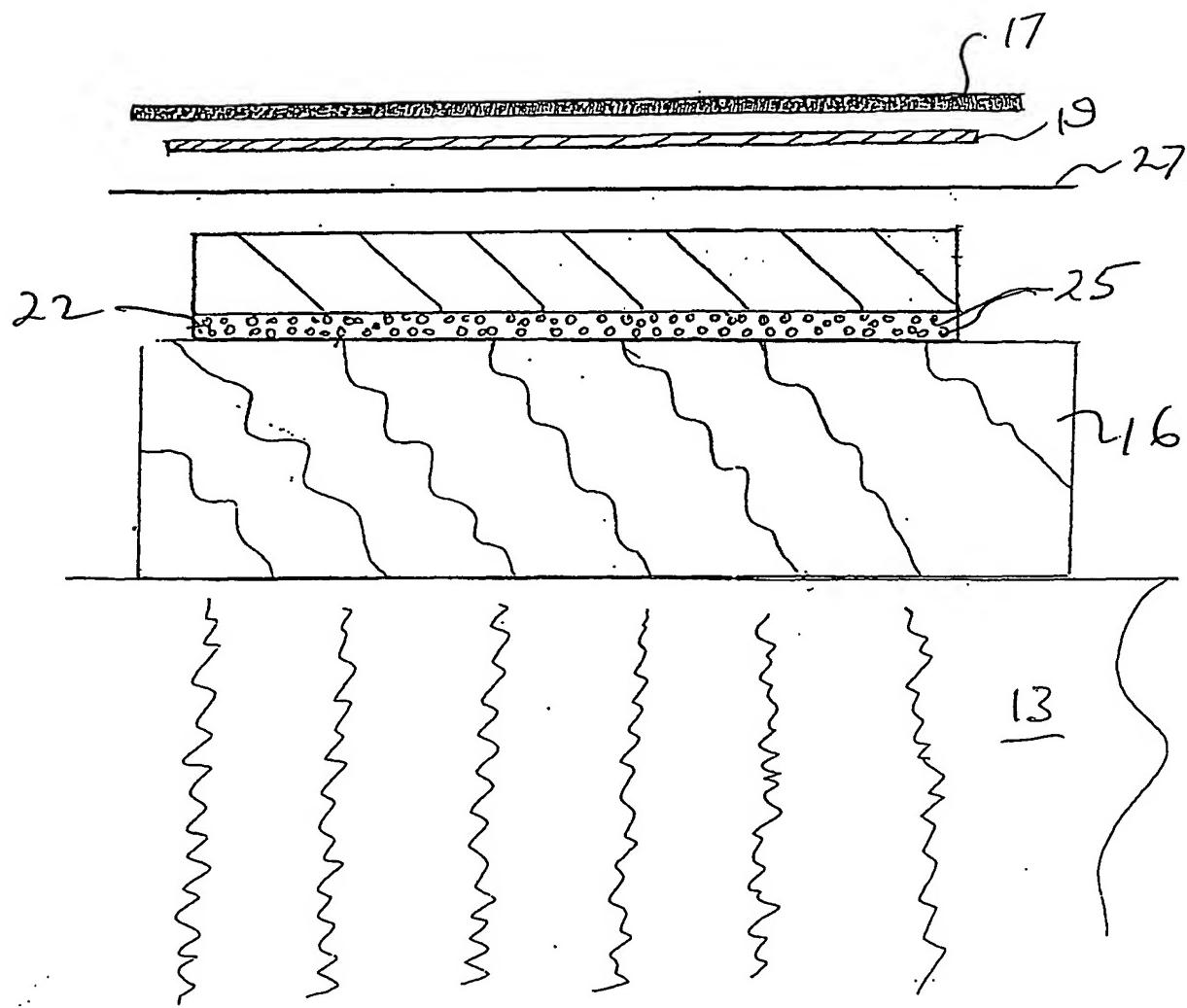


Fig 3

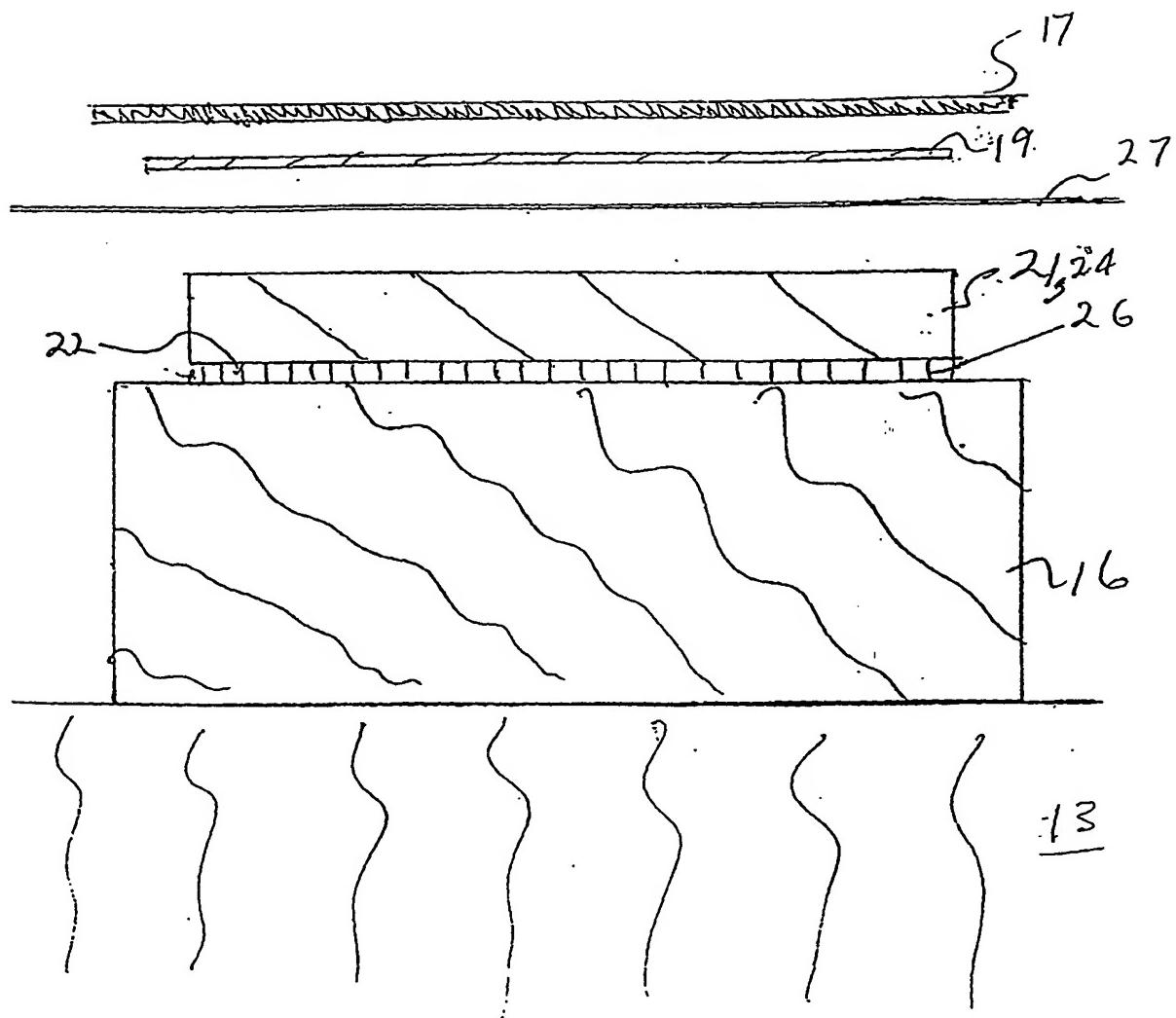


FIG 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/AU03/00012

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTERInt. Cl. ⁷: B41F 27/00, B44C 1/14, 1/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

REFER ELECTRONIC DATABASE CONSULTED BELOW.

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI: IPC B41F, B41K, B41L, B41M, B44C 1/-, B44B, B21D 22/-, B21D 26/-, B25B 11/-, and keywords (die, adhesive, compress, magnet, film, polymer and similar terms)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5904096 A (FAWCETT et al.) 18 May 1999 See especially column 4 line 30 to 47	1 - 12
X	EP 0235677 A2 (R. R. DONNELLEY & SONS COMPANY) 9 September 1987 See especially column 4 line 52 to column 5 line 4	1 - 12
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 94015 E/44, Class A32 G05 P78 (A94), JP 5716-212 A, 27 September 1982 See whole abstract	1 - 12

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
4 March 2003Date of mailing of the international search report
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU03/00012

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1053965 A2 (HEIDELBERGER DRUCKMASCHINEN AG) 22 November 2000 See especially the abstract	1 - 12
X	FR 2787062 A1 (CHRISTELLE) 16 June 2000 See especially the abstract	1 - 12
X	GB 1533431 A (MINNESOTA MINNING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY) 22 November 1978 See whole document	1 - 12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00012

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member			
US	5904096	AU	17618/95			
EP	0235677	US	4817527	JP	62270389	
JP	716212		NONE			
EP	1053965	DE	10020316	US	6250622	JP
FR	2787062		NONE			2000351194
GB	1533431	DE	2607479			

END OF ANNEX

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(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B41F 27/00**,
B44C 1/14, 1/24 Lawrence [AU/AU]; 3 Calabash Road, Arcadia, NSW
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(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU03/00012 (74) Agent: SPRUSON & FERGUSON; GPO BOX 3898,
Sydney, New South Wales 2001 (AU).

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,
CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,
SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC,
VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

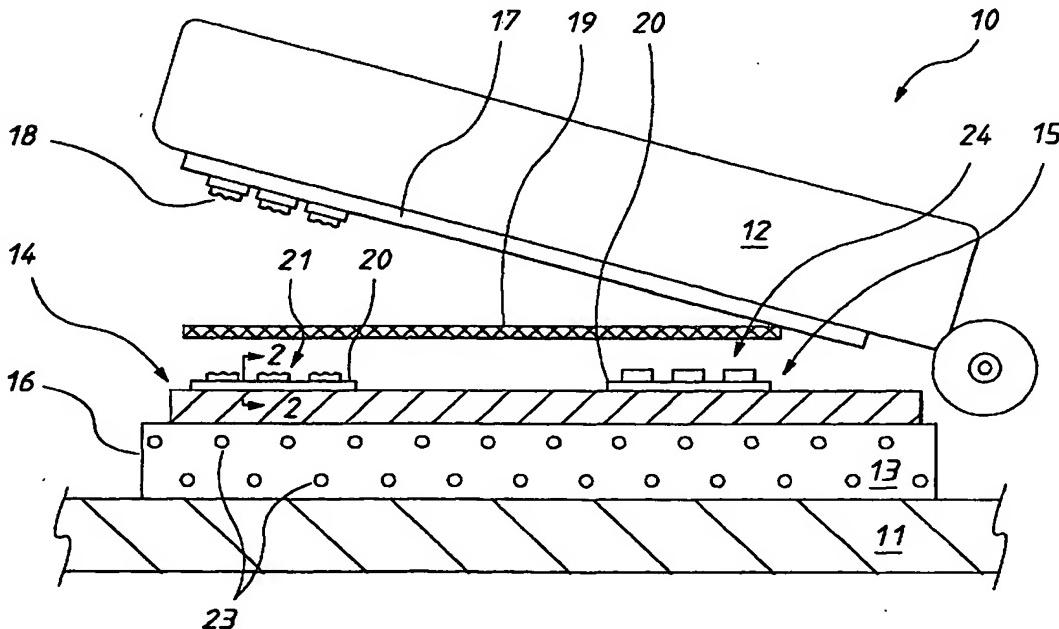
(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
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KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A DIE PLATE FOR A FOIL STAMPING MACHINE



WO 03/057487 A1



ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
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(15) Information about Correction:

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A DIE PLATE FOR A FOIL STAMPING MACHINE

Technical Field

The present invention relates to the field of graphic arts and more particularly to die plates employed in stamping machines such as foil stamping machines.

5

Background of the Invention

Described in International Patent Publication No. WO 00/67953 and USA Patent 5,904,096 are methods and apparatus relating to foil stamping.

The above-discussed publications disclose a magnetic holding device to secure a steel-backed polymer die plate to a foil stamping heating element.

10

Conventionally, the die plates are rigid, except for silicon rubber dies. Typically, the image layer is provided by magnesium, brass, copper, steel, zinc or a photo-polymer. However, there is required within the process some compressibility to ensure a quality image is applied to the substrate. Conventionally, the compression takes place in the packing, that is, the material behind the substrate.

15

It is also the practice in foil stamping to correct low points in the die plate by inserting material behind the packing. Typically, this material is paper or plastics and is fastened in position by means of glue or tape. When the die plate is to be replaced or re-positioned the clean-up will generally require the use of a flammable solvent. Accordingly, the conventional mounting of die plates is time-consuming and requires the 20 undesirable use of flammable solvents.

20

Object of the Invention

It is the object of the present invention to overcome or substantially ameliorate the above disadvantage.

Summary of the Invention

25

There is disclosed herein a die plate for a stamping machine, the die plate including:

a plate steel back to be secured to the machine;

a metal impression layer secured to the steel back and to engage a substrate to impart an image thereto upon pressure being applied to the die plate and substrate by the 30 machine; and

a compressible adhesive securing the image layer to the steel back.

Preferably, the compressible adhesive is an acrylic polymer.

Preferably, the impression layer is formed of brass, steel, copper, zinc, magnesium, aluminium or photo-polymer.

Preferably, said die plate has iron embedded in the adhesive.

Preferably, the adhesive is an epoxy resin.

In one preferred form, the iron embedded in said adhesive is in a particle form.

In a further preferred form, the iron embedded in said adhesive is in the form of a
5 mesh.

In a further preferred form, the iron embedded in said adhesive is in the form of a perforated plate. Preferably, the plate is 0.25 mm to 1 mm in thickness. Preferably, the thickness is about 0.25 mm or 0.6 mm.

Brief Description of the Drawings

10 A preferred form of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic side elevation of a foil stamping machine within which there is located a die plate to apply an image to a substrate;

15 Figure 2 is a schematic sectioned side elevation of the die plate employed in the machine of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a schematic side elevation of the foil stamping machine of Figure 1 with a modified die plate; and

Figure 4 is a schematic side elevation of the foil stamping machine of Figure 1 with a further modified die plate.

20 **Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments**

In Figures 1 and 2 of the accompanying drawings there is schematically depicted a foil stamping machine 10. The machine 10 includes a base 11 upon which there is pivotally mounted a platen 12. Secured to the base 11 is a bed 13 which is electrically heated by means of heating elements 23. Secured to the bed 13 is a magnetic holding device 16. Typically, the device 16 would be the magnetic holding device described in either of the above-mentioned patent publications.
25

Secured to the device 16 by magnetic attraction are die plates 14 and 15.

To cooperate with the die plates 14 and 15 is a jacket member (packing) 17, which is secured to the platen 12, having image portions 18. Preferably, the member 17 is a non-magnetic stainless steel or other non-magnetic metal. The image portions 18 are typically formed of fibreglass. If a foil image is to be applied to a substrate 19, a foil layer (27, Figures 3 and 4) is located between the substrate 19 and the die plate 14. The platen 12 applies pressure to the substrate 19 and the foil layer, so that the image is applied to the
30

substrate 19. In addition, the bed 13 heats the die plate 14 to aid in transfer of the foil to the substrate 19.

Each of the die plates 14 and 15 includes a plate steel back 20 to which there are secured image layers 21 and 24 respectively. The layer 21 is secured to the back 20 by means of a compressible adhesive 22. Preferably, the adhesive 22 is an acrylic polymer. The image layer 21 is formed of metal, such as brass, steel, copper, zinc, aluminium, photo-polymer or magnesium, while the layer 24 is formed of a photo-polymer. The above-described preferred embodiments provide the advantage of eliminating the use of having to insert material to "make up" low spots. Accordingly, the above-described preferred embodiment is time-efficient and eliminates the use of flammable solvents.

The above-described preferred embodiment also offers the advantage of substantially ameliorating the crushing and distortion of the substrate, which is of particular interest in security and anti-counterfeiting applications.

Preferably, in the case of the die plate 14, the plate steel back 20 would have a thickness of about 0.25 mm and the image layer of a thickness of about 1.50 mm. In respect of the die plate 15, preferably the plate steel back 20 would have a thickness of about 0.6 mm and the image layer (photo-polymer) a thickness of about 1.15 mm.

Accordingly, the die plates 14 and 15 would each have a total thickness of about 1.75 mm.

The above-described preferred embodiment lends itself to the processes of flat-foil stamping, embossing, de-bossing, die-cutting, perforating, top-slitting and a combination of foil stamp embossing and de-bossing.

In Figures 3 and 4 of the accompanying drawings, a modified die plate 14 is being used with the machine 10. More particularly, the adhesive layer 22 has embedded in it iron in various forms. The iron has been provided to aid in maintaining the die plates 14 and 15 generally planar. That is, to inhibit distortion due to different heat expansion rates.

In the embodiment of Figure 3, the iron is in the form of iron particles 25. More preferably, the adhesive 22 within which the iron particles 25 are embedded has a thickness of about 0.25 mm to 1 mm, preferably about 0.25 mm or about 0.6 mm.

In the embodiment of Figure 4, the adhesive 22 has embedded in it iron in sheet form. For example the sheet form could be woven or non woven mesh or alternatively, perforated iron plate 26. In respect of the plate 26, it would have a thickness of 0.25 mm to 1 mm (preferably about 0.25 mm or about 0.6 mm), with the adhesive 22 extending through the perforations in the plate 26.

In the embodiment of Figures 3 and 4 preferably, the adhesive 22 is an epoxy resin. In that respect, it should be appreciated that the epoxy resin is slightly less compressible than the acrylic polymer used with the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2. An alternative adhesive is a phenolic based resin.

CLAIMS:

1. A die plate for a stamping machine, the die plate including:
a plate steel back to be secured to the machine;
a metal impression layer secured to the steel back and to engage a substrate to
impart an image thereto upon pressure being applied to the die plate and substrate by the
machine; and
a compressible adhesive securing the image layer to the steel back.
2. The die plate of claim 1 wherein the compressible adhesive is an acrylic
polymer.
3. The die plate of claim 1 wherein the adhesive is an epoxy resin.
4. The die plate of claim 1 wherein its compressible adhesive is a phenolic
based resin.
5. The die plate of any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the impression layer is
formed of brass, steel, copper, zinc, magnesium, aluminium or photo-polymer.
6. The die plate of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein said die plate has iron
embedded in the adhesive.
7. The die plate of claim 6 wherein the iron embedded in said adhesive is
in a particle form.
8. The die plate of claim 6 wherein the iron embedded in said adhesive is
in the form of a mesh.
9. The die plate of claim 6 wherein the iron embedded in said adhesive is
in the form of a perforated plate.
10. The die plate of any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the plate has thickness
of about 0.25 mm to about 1 mm.
11. The die plate of claim 10 wherein the die plate has a thickness of about
0.25 mm.
12. The die plate of claim 10 wherein the die plate has a thickness of about
0.6 mm.

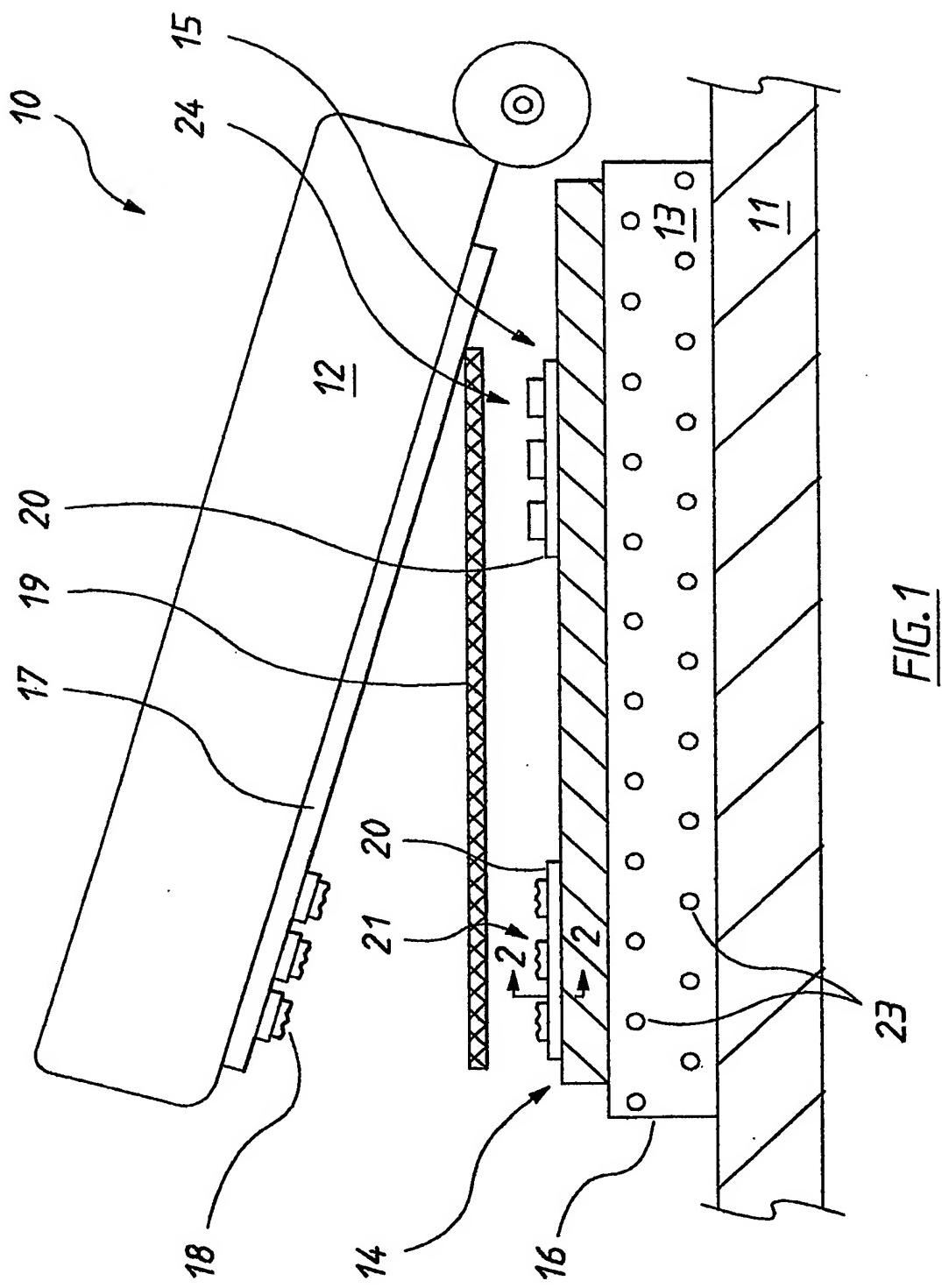


FIG. 1

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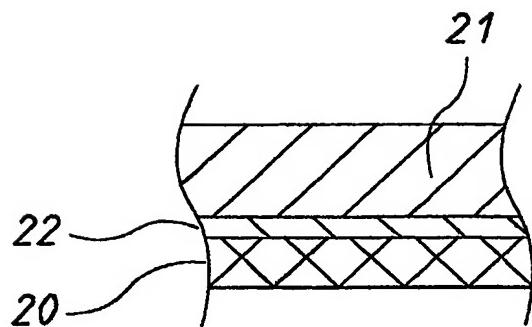


FIG.2

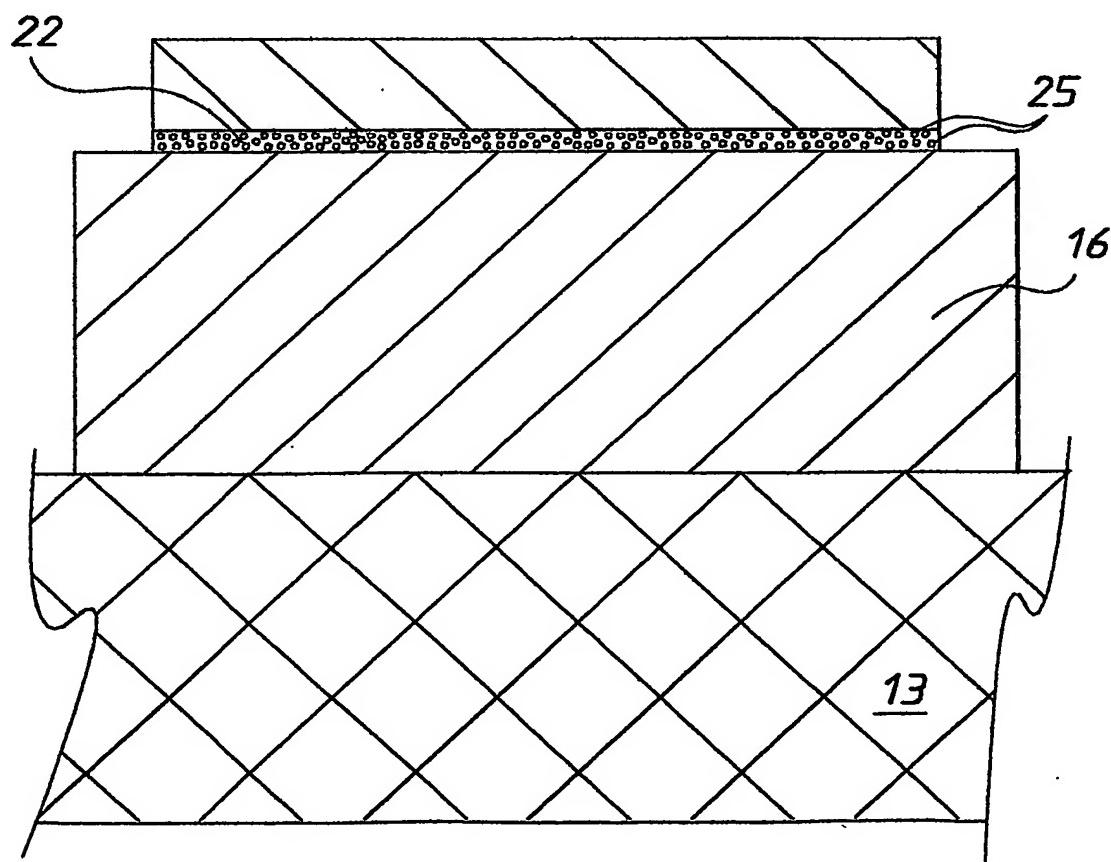
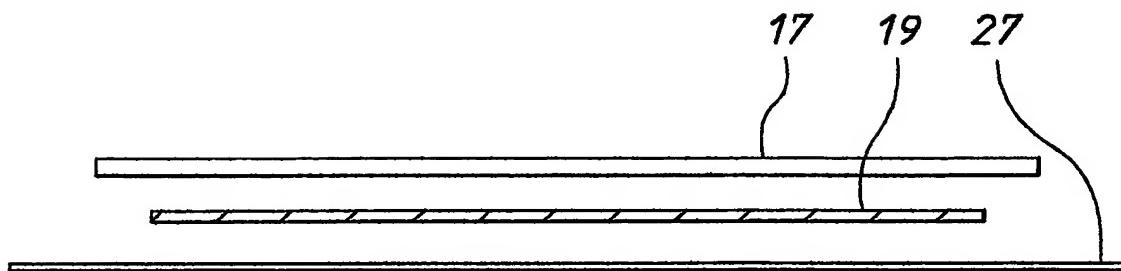
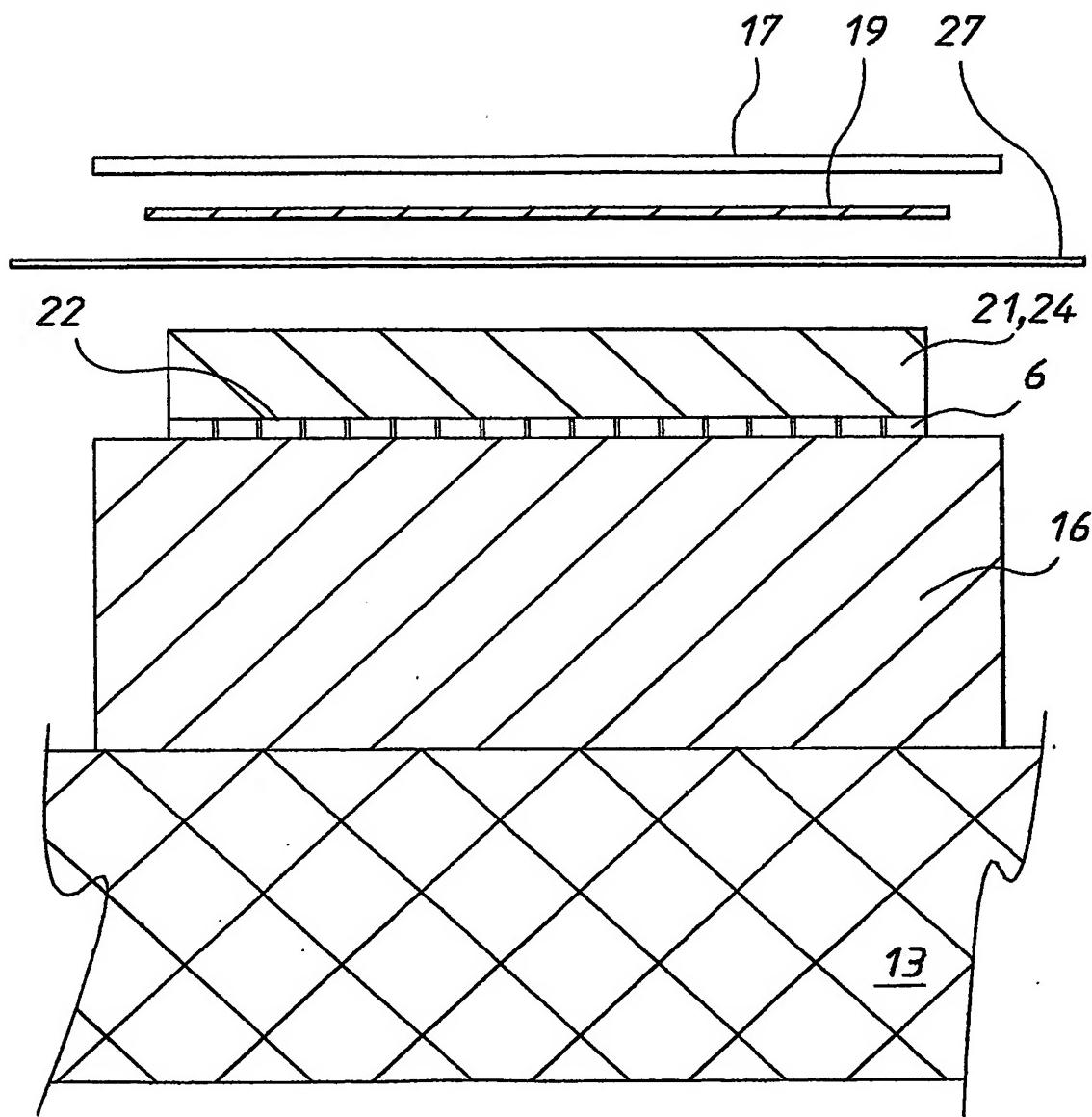


FIG.3



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00012

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. 7: B41F 27/00, B44C 1/14, 1/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

REFER ELECTRONIC DATABASE CONSULTED BELOW.

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI: IPC B41F, B41K, B41L, B41M, B44C 1/-, B44B, B21D 22/-, B21D 26/-, B25B 11/-, and keywords (die, adhesive, compress, magnet, film, polymer and similar terms)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5904096 A (FAWCETT et al.) 18 May 1999 See especially column 4 line 30 to 47	1 - 12
X	EP 0235677 A2 (R. R. DONNELLEY & SONS COMPANY) 9 September 1987 See especially column 4 line 52 to column 5 line 4	1 - 12
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 94015 E/44, Class A32 G05 P78 (A94), JP 5716-212 A, 27 September 1982 See whole abstract	1 - 12

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 4 March 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report 14 MAR 2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer A. ALI Telephone No : (02) 6283 2607

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU03/00012

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1053965 A2 (HEIDELBERGER DRUCKMASCHINEN AG) 22 November 2000 See especially the abstract	1 - 12
X	FR 2787062 A1 (CHRISTELLE) 16 June 2000 See especially the abstract	1 - 12
X	GB 1533431 A (MINNESOTA MINNING AND MANUFACTURING COMPANY) 22 November 1978 See whole document	1 - 12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU03/00012

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member				
US	5904096	AU	17618/95			
EP	0235677	US	4817527	JP	62270389	
JP	716212		NONE			
EP	1053965	DE	10020316	US	6250622	
FR	2787062		NONE		JP	2000351194
GB	1533431	DE	2607479			

END OF ANNEX